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24 December 1981

WASHINGTON (AP) - Columnist Jack Anderson said Thursday that he has obtained a secret report that at least three Soviet spies penetrated the General Accounting Office, which audits all government agencies and has access to national secrets.

Anderson said the operation was uncovered in 1979 and that Congress was told about it in a report that is still secret.

FBI spokesman Lane Bonner said the bureau will not comment on Anderson's report. No one could be reached Thursday at the General Accounting Office.

Anderson said the report on the operation showed that sometimes the spies within the GAO learned of the existence of sensitive military reports that were so secret they could not obtain copies. In those cases, they passed the reports' secret control numbers to other agents.

The other agents then went to a GAO records center and asked for microfiche copies of the reports by their control numbers. The clerk had no way of knowing that the microfiches contained sensitive materials and handed them over, Anderson said.

He broadcast his report on ABC-TV's "Good Morning America."

Anderson said information from the GAO was funneled to two Soviet agents: Vladimir Kvasov, a former assistant naval attache at the Soviet embassy who returned to the Soviet Union in August 1980; and Angel Angelov, an assistant military attache in the Bulgarian embassy.

Anderson said the information he obtained showed that Kvasov first visited the records center on Jan. 19, 1979 - before the report he sought was available. This showed he had advance information about the report, Anderson said.

The columnist said investigators determined that Kvasov "eventually got at least 15 classified reports on a variety of sensitive military programs" bearing such titles as "Status of the Navy's Torpedo Development Program," "U.S. Air Defense Capabilities in Europe" and "Operational Problems Facing the Army's Advance Helicopter."

Anderson said when the operation was uncovered GAO officials kept their report on it secret from Congress and ordered their counter-intelligence people not to tell the FBI.

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WASHINGTON: TO UPDATE WITH STAATS COMMENTS; INSERT AFTER 3RD GRAF;
FBI SPOKESMAN ... ACCOUNTING OFFICE.

ANDERSON SAYS KGB IN GAO

THE WASHINGTON POST REPORTED IN FRIDAY EDITIONS THAT ELMER STAATS;
THEN COMPTROLLER-GENERAL; TOLD IT HE INSTALLED "A WHOLE LOT OF
ADDITIONAL SECURITY" IN AUGUST 1979 AS A RESULT OF AN FBI
INVESTIGATION OF SOVIET-BLOC VISITS TO THE GAO.

ANDERSON SAID: 4TH GRAF
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WASHINGTON: THE FBI.

STAATS; HOWEVER; WAS QUOTED AS SAYING HE WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR CALLING
IN THE FBI; THOUGH HE NEVER SAW THE FBI'S WRITTEN REPORT ON THE
AFFAIR.

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